



New Director of Province 19 - Martin Henry Klust

Martin Klust succeeded the incoming Grand President Phil Gidman at the Annual Conference in Cardiff.

Martin was born in Dollis Hill which was then in the county of Middlesex, now in the London Borough of Brent. His parents had lived there for some years. He went to the local Convent School in Willesden Green and then on to the Salvatorian College, Harrow Weald. He moved to Peacehaven, Sussex in 1967.

He claims he was not a scholarly type being too interested in all types of sport. The fact that he lived in close proximity to Wembley, Lords, the White City and Highbury probably influenced this interest. At school he played for the first eleven at soccer and cricket, as well as being in the House team at basketball and athletics. However, his health was not of the best, and he suffered badly with asthma as a child and was rejected for National Service on the grounds of ill health.

His family were much involved in the local church at Willesden Green. His mother spent several hours on a Sunday running the Repository Stall and she was a governor of a home run by the Sisters of Charity for badly behaved girls. His father was instrumental in forming the local council of the Knights of St Columba. Martin served on the altar for many years, and he still remembers his dread at being called at 6am each weekday morning by his mother to serve the 7am Mass!

His first job was in the Finance Department of the Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital in London where he was employed in clerical duties for four and a half years.

Martin is fully aware, as a single man, how much the Catenian Association has meant to him, and he is keen for all Catholic men either single or married to share this experience.

He enjoyed working in the Health Service but decided that annual increments of £13 were not sufficient. He worked for a year at the Headquarters of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China before moving on again. He claimed they were pressurising him to study for a Bankers qualification, and his dislike of studying reared its head yet again.

He then joined Duncan Macneill & Co Ltd who were Tea Merchants, and there he was employed in the

Secretarial/Accounts Department. It was about this time that he decided he should consider where his career was going, and he started studying for his Chartered Secretary's qualification, which he obtained in 1959.

Geared by this success he also obtained his qualification as a member of The Institute of Taxation. His duties included preparing the accounts of several tea companies and attending



Board meetings in a secretarial capacity. About this time he decided there was not much future with his present employers, but after a short period of unemployment he rejoined Duncan Macneill who shortly afterwards became part of the Inchcape Group of companies, an International trading group then operating mainly in The Middle and Far East. The Organisation had grown tremendously, and Martin progressed through the ranks leaving the tea side of the group and reached the position of Head Office Accountant several years before his retirement. He also became the accountant for the Inchcape Family Charitable Trust. Martin had several opportunities to travel abroad, but says he got no further than Aberdeen!

In the years following his retirement Martin spent a fair amount of time travelling abroad, visiting his brother and family in the South of France frequently

and made several trips both privately and on Grand President's tours to Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. In spite of his fear of heights he has twice climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge as well as viewing the coral and fish at The Great Barrier Reef from a semi-submersible.

Full Time Job

After retirement he became involved with Parish affairs at Peacehaven and became Chairman of the Parish Finance Committee. This became a full-time job after the Parish Priest died in a fire at the Presbytery in April 2001, and was not replaced for several years. As the presbytery had been destroyed he was much involved in the planning and building of a new church hall completed in October 2005. He was also responsible at this time for the maintenance of the church building. He is a lay reader and eucharistic minister, and is still much involved in all aspects of parish life. He is also a carer for his brother who sadly suffered a stroke in 2003.

Martin joined the Catenian Association in July 1968 at Seaford Circle, sponsored by his brother and has held office at both Circle and Provincial level since 1971 when he became Secretary of Seaford Circle, which office he held until becoming Provincial Secretary in 1977. In 1980 he became President of Seaford Circle and Provincial President in 1986. Since then he has been President of Seaford on two further occasions in 1994 and 1995, and he was Provincial President again in 1999/2000, being Vice-President in the previous year to Philip Gidman.

In his year as Provincial President he made over 100 visits. He also served one year as Provincial Treasurer, and he calculates 24 years on and off as Provincial Secretary.

He has acted as Circle Secretary on at least nine occasions and held numerous other circle posts.

He became a member of Arundel Circle in 2000 and served as their treasurer for four years.

He had his first break from office this year, and it lasted 16 days before being installed as Director for Province 18 at Cardiff.

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